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**MEDIA RELEASE****For Immediate Release****May 26, 2006****Contact: Karen Vickers****(770) 424-8274****SINGING THE PRAISES OF MUSIC TOGETHER®**

KENNESAW, GA (May 26, 2006) "I never expected to be able to sing a lullaby to my baby," said a parent in Pennington, New Jersey, "but something about those classes makes the music come right out of my mouth!"

Kenneth K. Guilmartin, founder and director of Music Together LLC, has been hearing the same song from parents of very young children for 18 years now-that Music Together brings music, joy, learning, and a special relationship into their lives. This year, thousands of families throughout the world will be singing Music Together songs, and creating musical communities. This program is now being offered locally through the Kennesaw Parks and Recreation Department and Peachtree Music Together.

In the mid-1980s, Guilmartin envisioned children and the adults who love them making music together, much as in the days before television and recordings-singing, playing instruments, and moving together, regardless of musical background. "I've always thought of a Music Together class as something like song-and-dance time at a traditional multi-family picnic, outdoor concert or other social gatherings." Such an environment of relaxed and pleasurable participation by all sets the model and provides the opportunity for children to develop the natural, inborn musical ability they all have.

Music Together mixed age classes are designed for children ages birth to five and their parents or caregivers. Classes run 45 minutes long and include an artistically conceived flow of songs, nursery rhymes, instrument jam sessions, finger-plays, and movement activities. Classes are designed for children ages birth to five and their parents or caregivers. The combination and types of activities are research-based and support children in developing tonal and rhythm competence. In addition, activities evolve from the child's world and include vocal play, animal sounds, and a good bit of genuine, silly fun!



## PAGE 2

All this has been skillfully crafted into materials, including CDs and an illustrated songbook - that go home with families to encourage music-making in the car and at home, as well as in class. Not your average “kiddie music,” these creatively produced recordings of traditional, world, and original songs have multi-generational appeal and are often the families’ favorites.

With active, ongoing experiences in music and movement from birth, most children can develop basic skills in music like singing and moving rhythmically. These are natural abilities and easily learned skills for young children, provided they are modeled by parents and caregivers. And the program is not just about music... parents and caregivers learn many new ways to play and interact with their children.

The process is designed to be delightful for the entire family. “Our two children, Jessica and Kyle, spontaneously go into singing and music-playing, sometimes with the CD playing, and sometimes without. It is such a gem of a program!” says parent James Eng of Philadelphia. “I continue to praise the Music Together program for its purpose and function.”

“Everyone has musical intelligence,” says Guilmartin. “It is a joyful experience to see parents and children discover music. Music is born in us and it comes out if given a chance.”

The key to Guilmartin’s approach to family music was current research in early childhood education, particularly the parent-child relationship as it supports learning. The program drew from the work of leading educators and theorists, including Emil Jacques-Dalcroze, Edwin Gordon, Howard Gardner, Joseph Chilton Pierce, Lillian Katz, and Shinichi Suzuki. Guilmartin collaborated with Rowan University researcher Lili M. Levinowitz, Ph.D., to develop the Music Together curriculum for children ages birth through kindergarten and their caregivers.

The first classes for children and parents were held in suburban Philadelphia in 1987. This followed a period of development by the Center for Music and Young Children® (CMYC) founded by Guilmartin in 1985 in Princeton, New Jersey. CMYC continues to sponsor ongoing research and development in early childhood music and movement and operates a lab school serving over one thousand local families each year.

Laura McDuffie Foust is the director of Peachtree Music Together, which offers Music Together classes through the Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department. The location is the Kennesaw Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive. The instructor is Adrienne Korn. Morning summer classes begin Tuesday, June 13, and will run for six weeks (no classes on July 4). Fall classes will begin in September, and will run for ten weeks. Register online at [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec) or call (770) 422-9714 for more information.

## PAGE 3

### About Music Together LLC

Music Together LLC licenses and supports hundreds of independent centers throughout the United States whose programs offer weekly Music Together classes in their communities. Centers are also located in Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Switzerland, and other foreign countries. CMYC now sponsors over thirty three-to four-day intensive teacher trainings annually throughout the country, participates in national and international conferences, and publishes in professional journals. CMYC's rapidly expanding outreach initiatives include a program for teenage mothers and a major preschool development program for Head Start and other preschool populations.

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